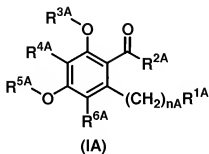


a.) Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A benzoyl compound represented by general formula (IA):



[wherein

nA represents an integer of 1 to 5;

R^{1A} represents substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy carbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, CONR⁷R⁸ (wherein R⁷ and R⁸ independently represent a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or R⁷

and R⁸ form a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group together with the adjacent nitrogen atom) or NR⁹R¹⁰ (wherein R⁹ and R¹⁰ have the same meanings as the above R⁷ and R⁸, respectively);

R^{2A} represents substituted or unsubstituted aryl or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group;

R^{3A} and R^{5A} independently each represent a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aryl;

R^{4A} represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy or halogen; and

R^{6A} represents a hydrogen atom, halogen, lower alkyl or aryl, cyano, nitro, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, amino, lower alkylamino, di lower alkylamino, carboxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy carbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic alkyl; provided that:

(i) when R^{3A} and R^{5A} each are methyl, R^{4A} and R^{6A} each are a hydrogen atom, and

$-(CH_2)_{nA}R^{1A}$ is

(a) methoxycarbonylmethyl;

R^{2A} is not a group selected from the group consisting of 2,4,6 trimethoxy-5-methoxycarbonyl-3-nitrophenyl, 3-cyano-2,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl, 5-cyano-2-ethoxy-4,6-dimethoxy-3-nitrophenyl, 2,6-dimethoxyphenyl, 2-chloro-6-methoxyphenyl and 2-chloro-4,6-dimethoxy-5-methoxycarbonyl-3-nitrophenyl;

(b) ethoxycarbonylmethyl;

R^{2A} is not 2,4,6-trimethoxy-3-methoxycarbonyl-phenyl, and

(c) N,N-dimethylaminomethyl;

R^{2A} is not phenyl;

(iii) when R^{3A} , R^{4A} , R^{5A} and R^{6A} each are is a hydrogen atom, and -

$(CH_2)_{nA}R^{1A}$ is

(a) 2-(acetoxymethyl)heptyl, 3-oxopentyl or pentyl,

R^{2A} is not 6-hydroxy-4-methoxy-3-methoxycarbonyl-2-pentylphenyl,

(b) 3-oxopentyl,

R^{2A} is not a group selected from the group consisting of 3-benzyloxycarbonyl-6-hydroxy-4-methoxy-2-pentylphenyl and 3-carboxy-6-hydroxy-4-methoxy-2-pentylphenyl, and

(c) n-propyl,

R^{2A} is not 2,4-dihydroxy-6-[(4-hydroxy-2-oxopyran-6-yl)methyl]phenyl;

(iii) when R^{3A} and R^{4A} each are a hydrogen atom, R^{5A} is methyl, R^{6A} is methoxycarbonyl, and $(CH_2)_{nA}R^{1A}$ is pentyl;

R^{2A} is not a group selected from the group consisting of 6-[2-(acetoxymethyl)heptyl]-2,4-dihydroxyphenyl, 2,4-dihydroxy-6-pentylphenyl and 2,4-dihydroxy-6-(3-oxopentyl)phenyl;

(iv) when R^{3A} and R^{5A} each are benzyl, R^{4A} and R^{6A} each are a hydrogen atom, and $(CH_2)_{nA}R^{1A}$ is 3-oxopentyl;

R^{2A} is not a group selected from the group consisting of 6-benzyloxy-4-methoxy-3-methoxycarbonyl-2-pentylphenyl and 6-benzyloxy-3-benzyloxycarbonyl-4-methoxy-2-pentylphenyl;

(v) when R^{3A} is benzyl, R^{4A} is a hydrogen atom, R^{5A} is methyl, $(CH_2)_{nA}R^{1A}$ is pentyl, and R^{6A} is methoxycarbonyl or benzyloxycarbonyl;

R^{2A} is not 2,4 bis(benzyloxy)-6-(3-oxopentyl)-phenyl;

(vi) when R^{3A} and R^{4A} each are a hydrogen atom, R^{5A} is methyl, —

$(CH_2)_n R^{1A}$ is pentyl, and R^{6A} is carboxy or benzyloxycarbonyl,

R^{2A} is not 2,4 dihydroxy-6-(3-oxopentyl)phenyl; and

(vii) when R^{3A} , R^{4A} and R^{6A} each are a hydrogen atom, R^{5A} is n-propyl, and

$(CH_2)_n R^{1A}$ is 5-(1,1-dimethylpropyl)-4-(2-hydrobenzotriazol-2-yl)-2-

hydroxyphenylmethyl,

R^{2A} is not phenyl],

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) The benzoyl compound according to claim 11, wherein R^{2A} is ~~a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group~~, substituted aryl having 1 to 3 substituents, or aryl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 13 and 14 (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) The benzoyl compound according to ~~any one~~ of ~~claims 11 to 14~~ claim 11 or 12, wherein R^{1A} is CONR^{7 8}, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) The benzoyl compound according to ~~any one~~ of ~~claims 11 to 14~~ claim 11 or 12, wherein R^{6A} is ~~a hydrogen atom~~, lower alkyl, ~~halogen or~~ aryl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, the benzoyl compound according to claim 16 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said benzoyl compound, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, a prodrug of the benzoyl compound according to claim 16 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 19-31 (Cancelled).

32. (New) The benzoyl compound according to claim 11, wherein

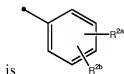
n_A is 1,

R^{1A} is $CONR^{7a}R^{8a}$ (wherein R^{7a} and R^{8a} independently represent lower alkyl substituted by hydroxyl or lower alkoxy), and

R^{6A} is lower alkyl,

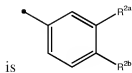
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

33. (New) The benzoyl compound according to claim 32, wherein R^{2A}



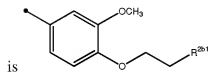
(wherein R^{2a} represents substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, and R^{2b} represents substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic-alkyl oxy), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

34. (New) The benzoyl compound according to claim 32, wherein R^{2A}



(wherein R^{2a} represents substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, and R^{2b} represents substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic-alkyl oxy), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

35. (New) The benzoyl compound according to claim 32, wherein R^{2A}



(wherein R^{2b1} represents substituted or unsubstituted morpholino or substituted or unsubstituted piperidino), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.